

Att'y Dkt. No. US-1410

U.S. App. No: 09/841,609

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please kindly rewrite Claim 4 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) An isolated *Escherichia coli* bacterium which has been constructed from a sucrose non-assimilative *Escherichia coli* strain, wherein the bacterium harbors *csc* genes originating from *Escherichia coli* selected from the group consisting of strain EC3132 and strain W3350csc, and comprising genes coding for a permease, invertase and fructokinase, and said bacterium having an ability to cause accumulation of an amino acid in a medium when the bacterium is cultured in the medium in an amount higher than is produced from a bacterium not harboring said *csc* genes.

5. (previously cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously amended) The bacterium according to claim 4, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of threonine, homoserine, isoleucine, lysine, valine, and tryptophan.

8. (previously amended) A method for producing an amino acid comprising the steps of cultivating the bacterium according to claims 4 or 7 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the culture medium, and collecting the amino acid from the culture medium.

9-12. (cancelled)

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